

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A vertebral body replacement comprising:
a body with a top, a bottom, an anterior face, a posterior face, and two, opposing growth hole faces, ~~including wherein at least one of the growth hole faces is a~~ one planar face and the other growth hole face is arcuate;
at least one window-shaped passage passing through the body from the top to the bottom;
wherein at least one protrusion is formed on at least one of the top and the bottom;
wherein at least one hole is provided that extends through the two growth hole faces; and
wherein the top includes at least one elongated groove that extends along the top and parallel to the planar face; and
wherein the bottom ~~each~~ includes at least one groove that extends parallel to the planar face.
2. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove of the top includes at least one continuous groove that extends through a full portion of the top ~~and of the bottom.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove of the top includes at least one discontinuous groove that extends through a partial portion of the top ~~and of the bottom.~~
4. (Original) The vertebral body replacement of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is capable of being received by an installation tool for insertion into an intervertebral space.
5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of claim 5 1, wherein the arcuate face has a curved shape that acts as an integral protrusion to provide stability.
7. (Original) The vertebral body replacement of claim 1, further comprising a second vertebral body replacement identical in construction to the vertebral body replacement and wherein the vertebral body replacement and the second vertebral body replacement are capable of being inserted adjacent one another into an intervertebral space.
8. (Original) The vertebral body replacement of claim 7, wherein said second vertebral body replacement includes two second growth hole faces, with at least one being a second planar face, and wherein the second planar face is oriented parallel to said planar face of said vertebral body replacement when the vertebral body replacement and second vertebral body replacement are inserted adjacent one another in the vertebral space.
9. (Original) The vertebral body replacement of claim 1, wherein the two growth hole faces include four spaced holes.
10. (Original) The vertebral body replacement of claim 1, wherein the anterior face is formed as a rounded portion that facilitates minimally invasive insertion of the vertebral body replacement.
11. (Withdrawn) A method of inserting vertebral body replacements comprising:
providing a first vertebral body replacement having a body with a top, a bottom, an anterior face, a posterior face, and two growth hole faces, including at least one first planar face; at least one window-shaped passage passing through the body; wherein the top

and the bottom include a plurality of serrations; wherein at least one hole is provided that extends through the two growth hole faces; and wherein the top and the bottom each include at least one groove that extends parallel to the planar face; providing a second vertebral body replacement having a second body with a second top, a second bottom, a second anterior face, a second posterior face, and two second growth hole faces, including at least one second planar face; at least one window-shaped passage passing through the second vertebral body replacement; wherein the second top and the second bottom include a plurality of serrations; wherein at least one hole is provided that extends through the two growth hole faces; and wherein the second top and the second bottom each include at least one groove that extends through the plurality of serrations in the second body; inserting the first vertebral body replacement into an intervertebral space with an insertion tool; and inserting the second vertebral body replacement into the intervertebral space with the insertion tool, wherein the first vertebral body replacement and the second vertebral body replacement are adjacent with the first planar face and the second planar face oriented parallel to and in near contact of one another.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the insertion tool is received in the first insertion groove of the first vertebral body replacement during the first inserting step and in the second insertion groove of the second vertebral body replacement during the second inserting step.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:
filling the at least one window-shaped passage of the first vertebral body replacement and of
the second vertebral body replacement with bone tissue.
14. (Cancel)
15. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 14 1, wherein the top
defines an upper surface and the bottom defines a lower surface, and wherein the upper
surface is non-parallel to the lower surface.
16. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 14 1, wherein the body has a
rectangular cross-section.
17. (Cancel)
18. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 14 15, wherein ~~the body has~~
at least one protrusion is formed on each of the upper surface and lower surface thereof.
19. (Cancel)
20. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 14 1, wherein the body is
composed of a biocompatible material selected from the group consisting of a biocompatible
polymer, a metal, a bone material, or a combination thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein the body is a section from the shaft of a femur and comprises a portion of the femur medullary cavity.
22. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein the body further comprises a metallic sheath.
23. (Withdrawn) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 22, wherein the metallic sheath further comprises a plurality of protrusions thereon, and wherein the protrusions are capable of contacting a vertebra.
24. (Cancel)
25. (Withdrawn) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 24, wherein the at least one slot has a bone core therein.
26. (Currently Amended) The vertebral body replacement of Claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein the body comprises a plurality of bonded layers.
27. (Withdrawn) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 26, wherein at least one bonded layer comprises a bone core.
28. (Withdrawn) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 27, wherein the bonded layers are bonded by an adhesive.

29. (Withdrawn) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 27, and further comprising at least one linking pin for bonding.
30. (Withdrawn) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 27, and further comprising the linking pins for bonding.
- 31 – 40. (Canceled)
41. (Withdrawn) A method for delivering a vertebral body replacement, the method comprising:
- (a) inserting an insertion tool into an intervertebral space;
 - (b) engaging at least a first guiding groove of a vertebral body replacement with a space guide of the insertion tool; and,
 - (c) inserting the vertebral body replacement into the intervertebral space into a vertebral body replacement receiving slot in the intervertebral space.
42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 41, wherein the insertion tool is rotated into a position substantially normal to a vertebra.
43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 41, and further comprising:
- (a) inserting a guide tool into a selected position in the intervertebral space;
 - (b) sliding the insertion tool along the guide tool;
 - (c) directing the insertion tool to the selected position in the intervertebral space; and
 - (d) removing the guide tool from the insertion tool.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the steps of:
- (a) sliding a cutting tool into the insertion tool;
 - (b) contacting the vertebra with the cutting tool;
 - (c) cutting the vertebral body replacement receiving slot in the intervertebral space;
 - (d) removing the cutting tool; and
 - (e) inserting the vertebral body replacement into the vertebral body replacement receiving slot.
45. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 44, further comprising the method to deliver a second vertebral body replacement to the intervertebral space.
- 46 – 47. (Canceled)
48. (New) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 1, wherein the at least one groove of the top is not collinear with the at least one groove of the bottom.
49. (New) The vertebral body replacement of claim 48, wherein the grooves are perpendicular to the posterior face.
50. (New) The vertebral body replacement of Claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion comprises a plurality of serrations.